

Oxon Cove Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Capital Parks —East

Maryland

Upcoming Events

The Birth of Slavery In The Americas

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, September 7

2:00 p.m.

Ages 9 and up

Learn about the European exploration of the Americas. We will discuss the Imperial power's quest for gold, their desire to spread Christianity to the America's, and their desire for glory in their countries. We will then discuss how these goals or the three G's (gold, God, and glory) would have affected the Native American's and eventually lead to the establishment of slavery in the America's. This is a ranger lecture and tour of Mount Welby (Oxon Hill's name in the early 1800's) plantation that will highlight a four hundred year history along the Potomac River and the America's.

Plantation Slavery vs. Urban Slavery

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, September 21

2:00 p.m.

For all ages

This program is designed to provide understanding into the differences of slavery on a plantation and slavery in the cities of the United States in the 1800's. This is a ranger conducted tour which will introduce these varying forms of slavery. We will do this by comparing the slavery that existed here on Mount Welby (Oxon Hill's name in the early 1800's) with that conducted just down the river in Georgetown and Herring Hill.

The First Americans

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, September 28

2:00 p.m.

Ages 9 and up

This ranger led lecture is based on the curriculum based measures of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The program is designed to provide understanding into the First Americans that lived here on Oxon Cove and along the Potomac Valley. We will examine how these first contacts with the Europeans would effect Native American tribes of the Potomac Valley.

Morning Wagon Rides

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Wednesdays and Saturdays in October

9:30 a.m.

For all ages

Take a scenic ride through the park and enjoy the cool mornings while listening to interesting stories of the park.

Earth Day Everyday

Oxon Cove Park-Visitor Barn

Saturday, October 4

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For all ages.

Earth Day can be any day of the year you want to celebrate Mother Nature! We will begin with a short introduction of facts about trash, afterwards we will head down to the Cove for a river clean-up from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wear clothes you are willing to get dirty and sturdy shoes. If you are under 12, you must have an adult accompany you. Call Park Ranger Jackie Ballard for more information on how you can get involved!

Historical Farm Equipment

Oxon Cove Park - Visitor Barn

Sunday, October 5

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For all ages

Did you ever wonder what a strange looking piece of farm equipment was used for? Take a walking tour and learn how technology has changed from horse power to machine power. Meet the Park Ranger at the Windmill.

Pumpkins, the Special Squash

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, October 11

11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ages 6 – 13, but all are welcomed

Ever wonder why pumpkins are prominent symbol of fall and the holiday season? Through songs, stories, and poems we will we discover the cultural importance of pumpkins and their place in the American landscape.

Plantation Slavery vs. Urban Slavery

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, October 12

1:00 p.m.

For all ages

This program is designed to provide the visitor with understanding into the differences of slavery on a plantation and slavery in the cities of the United States in the 1800's.

Secessionists, Smugglers and Spies, the Civil War in Southern Maryland

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, November 2

Times – To be Announced

For all ages

What was it like to live on a farm in southern Maryland in the 1863? Of course, it would depend on who you were and your place in society. This program will introduce you to characters whose lives were impacted by the changes brought on by the Civil War. Through dramatic vignettes, you will meet a runaway slave, a landowner and his family, a spy, a smuggler, a squad of uniformed and armed African-American Union troops.

Gobble It Up

Oxon Cove Park - Visitor Barn

Thursdays, November 6 & 20

11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4-10. Group size less than 20

Have you ever wondered why there are images of turkeys everywhere during the fall time? Come to this program and gobble up some fun and educational information and discover why turkeys are an important fall symbol. We will read poems, sing songs, and tell stories to find out about this common farm animal with a unique place in American culture. Reservations required.

Falling Foliage

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, November 8

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ages 8 and up

Take a short hike on the Woodlot Trail with a Park Ranger to look at some of the common trees in the area. The trail is about a half mile through the woods of the park. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Colonial Cooking

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, November 16

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For all ages

Chow-Chow + Recipes.

Learn about the recipes of Chow-Chow, a popular dish of the 19th century, Sorry no tasting.

Industrial Revolution Comes to the Farm

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Wednesday, November 19

1:00 p.m.

For all ages

This program is designed to provide the visitor understanding into the transition of Colonial Farming into Plantation and large Scaling Farming. It will focus on the inventions that allowed the American farmers to succeed and expand further and further Westward. We will discuss the Iron Plow, Cyrus McCormick's Mechanical Reaper and other important inventions of the Industrial Revolution.

Holiday Festival

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday December 7

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

For all ages

Explore the history of Oxon Cove Park as we celebrate the holiday season with a tribute to the many cultures that have influenced the history of Oxon Cove Park. There will be music, storytelling, horse drawn wagon rides and much more.

National Puzzle Month Display

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

January 1 to January 31

For all ages

Join us in celebrating America's favorite pastime of puzzle solving. Browse around the Visitor Barn to see the variety of scenic picture puzzles on display.

Saint Elizabeth Hospital Era

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, January 17

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

For all ages

Learn the history of the farm from 1891 to 1967 when Oxon Cove Park was the Saint Elizabeth Farm of Washington, D. C.

Life on the Farm in Winter

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, January 18

9:00 a.m.

For K-12 grades

Join the Park Ranger in discovering what chores needed to be carried out on the farm. Help feed the animals, clean the stables, milk the cow, and feed the chickens.

Barnyard Tales

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, January 25

11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ages 3-9 but all welcomed

Life on the farm slows down in winter, so come sit a spell and listen to stories with a farm theme. Reservations required.

Groundhog Day

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, January 31

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For all ages

Hear the story of America's most famous groundhog. We will discover some little known facts about the groundhog and host our own ceremony for this year's prediction. Will there be 2 more weeks of winter?

Dr. George Washington Carver Exhibit and Film

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

February 1 through February 28

For all ages

Come learn about a great African American's tribute to agriculture. View the video, "Carver: Man of Vision," at the Visitor Barn Book Shop. An on-going exhibit about this great man's life will also be on display throughout the month of February.

Egg Incubation Program

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

February 1 to June 1

For all ages

Spring is upon us and it's time for our annual incubation program. We provide incubators and fertile eggs to school teachers for hatching to take place in the classroom. This provides children an opportunity to observe the miracle of life first hand. Contact Ranger Ray for more information.

Winter Chores on the Farm

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, February 7

9:00 a.m.

For all ages. Children under 12 need an adult.

Join a Ranger bright and early to help feed and water our farm animals! Wear warm clothes that are able to get dirty.

“Egg Talk”

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, February 7 & 14

11:00a.m.

For all ages

Orientation talk for participants in Oxon Hill Farm's incubation program science project 2009.

Underground Railroad

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, February 8

1:00 p.m.

For all ages

Learn about the importance of the Underground Railroad and the role played in the years leading up to the American Civil War.

Plantation Slavery vs. Urban Slavery

Oxon Cove Park – Farmhouse

Sunday, February 15

1:00 p.m.

For all ages

This program is designed to provide the visitor with an understanding into the differences and ways of life for slaves on plantations vs. city slavery.

Let's Celebrate African American Month at Mount Welby

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, February 15

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ages, 6-13, but all welcomed

Through songs, stories, and discussion, we will discover the cultural traditions of Africa that were brought here via the Atlantic slave trade. This cultural continuity not only impacted those who lived on the Mount Welby farm (the name of the park property during the 19th century), in enslavement, but American society, as well. Reservations required.

Presidents Day

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, February 21

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ages 8 and up, but all are welcomed

Today we celebrate the birthdays of 2 historic presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will discover the stories that shaped their lives. We will also be introduced to a president important to the National Park Service. Theodore Roosevelt.

The Birth of Slavery In the America's

Oxon Cove Park – Farmhouse

Sunday, February 22

1:00 p.m.

Ages 9 and up

Learn about the Europeans Exploration of the America's, their quest for Gold, their desire to spread Christianity, and how this affected the Native American's and eventually led to the establishment of slavery in the America's.

Okra

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, February 28

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For all ages

Come to Oxon Hill Farm and learn the cooking techniques and history of “Okra”, a vegetable brought to the new world from Africa via the slave trade. All visitors will receive a free recipe.

Let's Celebrate National Agriculture Day!

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Thursday, March 19

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

For all ages

Let us take time to ponder the farmer's important role in history and, of course, in today's busy world. There will be rangers stationed throughout the park to discuss farming, farm animals, and Oxon Hill Farm's place in America's agricultural history. Come prepared with lots of questions and a curious mind!

Birds of Prey

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, March 21

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For all ages

What are birds of prey? Where can I see them? Are they found in my backyard? Join a Park Ranger and discover the answers to these questions and much more about these air hunters.

Women's History Month Exhibit

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

March 1 to March 31

For all ages

Visit the Visitor Barn Book Shop to see and read about the wonderful contributions women have made to our agricultural history.

Women and the Power of the Pen

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, March 22

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ages 7-13

Come and explore the letters of Mrs. Debutts and discover how these letters have given historians insight into what life was like during the 19th century on the Mount Welby farm. We will also find out how women used their personal writings as a way to assert themselves in a world that seemed to have no place for them.

Reservations required.

Rabbit Review

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, March 28

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For all ages

Are you receiving a pet bunny for Easter this year? Come to Oxon Hill Farm and meet rabbit breeders and learn about the proper care and handling of your pet rabbit.

Secrets of a Vegetable Garden

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, March 29

1:00 p.m.

For all ages

This program is designed to provide the visitor with the opportunity to join a Park Ranger in the vegetable garden for this hands on program to learn about basic gardening techniques used for establishing a vegetable garden.

Celebrating Agricultural Day

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Sunday, March

To be announced

For all ages

We will host WMALGARDEN SENSE SHOW to kick off spring and our planting season at Oxon Cove Park.

Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

April 4

9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

For all ages

The month of April features an opportunity for volunteers to join forces with the Park Rangers in caring for our valuable natural resources. Join in the 21st Annual Potomac River Clean-up at Oxon Cove Park, which is one of the designated national sites for cleaning up the river. Just wear sturdy shoes and work clothes and bring lots of energy. Call 301-839-1176 to sign up. Participate in this event and earn community service credits.

National Park Week

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

Saturday, April 18

To be announced

For all ages

Celebrate National Park Week with the Rangers at Oxon Cove Park. We will discover some of the nation's largest and most popular parks. We will also be introduced to some smaller, yet equally important parks.

File:2008,2009 Fall,Winter Special Events Oxco 8-17-08 MSPublisher

